WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 FEBRUARY 1988

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

NEW ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY, SPONSORED BY WCHS, EXPECTED OFF PRESS IN JUNE

A new up-to-date illustrated history of our county, sponsored by the Washtenaw County Historical Society, is expected off the presses late this spring.

Ruth Bordin, a research affiliate at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library and county resident since 1948, is the author. She wrote *University of Michigan: A Pictorial History* and *Frances Willard: A Biography* among other titles.

WCHS voted to sponsor the book to be produced by Windsor Publications of Northridge, California, four years ago. Windsor has produced hundreds of books about cities, counties and states including one about Michigan last year for the Historical Society of Michigan.

The 176-page hardcover book, 8½ by 11 inches, will feature nearly 100 historic photographs and illustrations. Twenty-four pages are in full color.

Windsor expects to have it on sale in bookstores by June for $27.95. Copies may be reserved now through April 15 by mail from the publisher.

Those ordering in advance will receive a commemorative book bag with the book's cover picture reproduced on the bag.

While Windsor shoulders the major responsibility, WCHS has had a say in choosing an author and a chance to preview the text for errors. It is a chronicle of the events that have shaped Washtenaw from the Ice Age to the present.

WCHS will receive a percentage on the sale of each book.

To reserve an advance copy write or phone Windsor Publications, Inc., 8910 Quartz Avenue, Post Office Box 9071, Northridge, California 91328 or call (818) 700-0200.

HAIR WREATH SPRUCED UP, READY TO TRAVEL

A framed hair wreath owned by the Society is now ready to go on the road with the traveling exhibit since the frame and glass have been refinished and replaced, respectively.

Karen O'Neal, traveling exhibit chairman, arranged to have it spruced up and even backed it with her own handmade paper. Elizabeth Dusseau has loaned a hair receiver which is what, a hundred years ago or so, ladies used to collect hair combings to make wreaths.

Mrs. O'Neal made two presentations at Haisley School with the "What It Is?" Game. The collection of small artifacts was also exhibited at Carpenter School's sesquicentennial last fall.

'OLD HOUSE' SUBJECTS: GARDENS, PLUMBING

Ann Arbor Area Preservation Alliance is sponsoring a series of "Old House Clinics" at 2 p.m. the second Sunday of each month through November at the Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor.

Scott Kunst, local landscape historican, was to speak February 4 on 19th and early 20th century garden styles. Bob Elton, artist, designer and amateur plumber, will talk about making old plumbing work without tearing the house apart March 13.

For more information call 665-2112.

'WHAT IS IT' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it" game for children to schools and another for adults.

They are available for classes and meetings, subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Karen O'Neal, chairwoman, 665-2242.

SPEAKER TO DISCUSS TURN-OF-CENTURY CITY, MAY FESTIVAL HISTORY

Ramon Hernandez, director of the Ann Arbor Public Library since 1983, will talk about "The May Festival: A Slice of Human History" at the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 21, at Bentley Library, 1150 Beal on the U-M North Campus.

Hernandez has "established himself as one of the city's most popular and versatile lecturers" according to the *Ann Arbor Observer.*

The annual May Festival, which started in 1894, is still a fixture of the local musical scene. The speaker plans to focus on human interest stories of early festivals and Ann Arbor around the turn of the century.

Hernandez graduated from Elmhurst College in history, Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis and earned a master's in library science at the University of Wisconsin.

During the 1960s he was a United Church of Christ pastor in Merrill, Wisconsin, four years and UCC director of youth work in Madison six years. He directed the Merrill Public Library 1970-75 and the Wisconsin Rapids Public Library until coming to Ann Arbor.

He still represents the UCC in an exchange program with the Protestant Church in East Germany where he makes periodic trips. The next will be in June.

He also is writing a biography of a once well-known Wisconsin lumberman and philanthropist he hopes to publish.

MARCH TOPIC BARNS

Michigan barns will be spotlighted at the Sunday, March 20, meeting of WCHS when Professor Hemalata Dandekar of the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning will present a program on "The Michigan Farm and Its Buildings."

WWII MEMORIES

THE BOMBER PLANT – MIRACLE AT WILLOW RUN

At its height in World War II, the Willow Run Bomber Plant employed 42,000 persons and turned out an airplane an hour in what had only recently been open farm fields east of Ypsilanti.

The story of that remarkable transformation, some of it in the words of those who were there, was the topic of the November WCHS meeting.

Speaker Flavia P. Reps came to teach history at Washtenaw Community College when it first opened in 1966 temporarily in abandoned Willow Village buildings.

The administration was in the meat market, there were offices in the bowling alley and the old Foster School was put to use.

That sparked her curiosity, and with the encouragement of the administration, including Dave Pollock now retired WCC vice-president and WCHS board member, she started digging into the history of the plant and village.

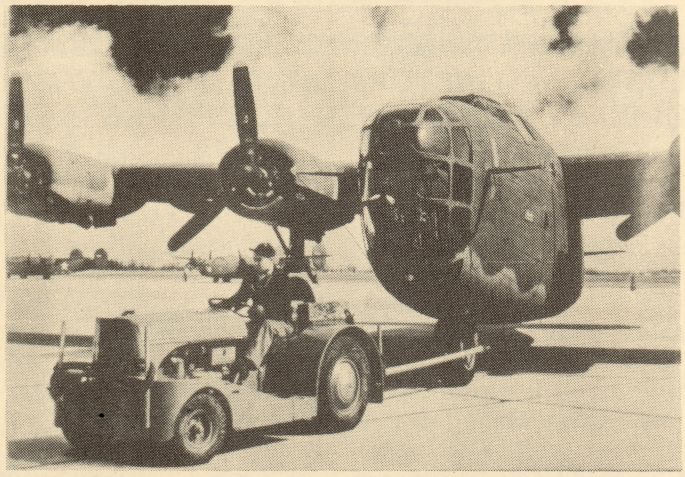
Her slide-tape show was composed of excerpts from her collection of 40-50 taped interviews with persons who lived or worked there plus slides copied from her photos. She also showed newsreel, "Recreation at the Bomber Plant," which she found in the National Archives.

"Before World War II, Washtenaw County had a population of about 80,000, of whom about 16,000 lived in the Ypsilanti-Willow Run area. Basically it was a midwestern mixed-farming type of community, she said.

"And then in 1941 Henry Ford selected Willow Run, which was part of land he owned, mainly because it was close enough to Detroit to draw a work population and there was (almost) enough land. As it turned out, Ford had to buy some more land from the Wiards.

"I was curious about how much Ford paid them and if this was a difficult problem acquiring more land for the bomber plant.

"Unfortunately, in order to do oral history you need to go to the original source and sometimes that's not possible. I could only probably talk to the children who wouldn't know exactly. Perhaps some of you can help me with some of my puzzle questions.



Photos courtesy of Flavia Reps

This June 25, 1943 photo was headed "Bomber Gets A Lift From Ford-Built 'Mule'". A Ford Willow Run-built B-24 'Liberator' bomber is towed by a Ford-Ferguson Mototug, an off-spring of the Ford-Ferguson tractor, built for the Navy. (From scrapbook of Doris Maleski of Willis.)

"At any rate architects hailed this plant as a vast precision tool in itself. Raw materials were flown in on one end, they would make the parts for the plane and, then, in adjoining areas they would have the main assembly line.

"They actually did make that plane completely, just like the Ford car.

"The humor of the time was 'Will it run?' because it took them almost a year to build the correct parts and they had a double shift around the clock. They started in 1941, had the planes moving by 1942 and certainly, within that year, were putting out a plane an hour, which is incredible if you think about the fact that this has a 110-foot wing span, is 63 feet long and its moving along that assembly line.

"Just the heaviness of the plane alone, I think, boggles the mind that they were able to achieve it, but they did.

"The main building alone covered 67 acres. By 1944 they had achieved 8,685 planes and they employed over 42,000 workers.

"Another problem was that Ypsilanti was a Republican community prior to the bomber plant. You have 42,000 workers that very likely are not voting Republican. It might change the whole political environment.

"They never accommodated more than 14,000 people between Willow Lodge, the dormitory and the homes.

"The consequence of that is, even though there was inadequate housing, people still came. These were good jobs.

"It was a real problem. They did not belong to the city. The state was not taking any responsibility. It was a real question of exactly who takes care of health codes and sanitation. There was fear of fire and epidemic.

"Sometimes the septic tank literally would deposit its contents in the same puddle the drinking water was being taken from.

"Trailers and homes were crowded to the breaking point. Later in the war, housing was built such as Pittsfield Village which still exists and which was considered model housing at the time.

A woman from Louisiana told Miss Reps that for people who "left the holler" living conditions were just fine so that you had to look at it from their point of view.

"The Truman (housing) commission, after visiting, actually took Ford to court because it considered the housing inadequate but Ford won the case.

"This small farm community was trying to house thousands of workers plus their families. This was a problem in terms of sanitation—who has jurisdiction? This would make another very interesting study.

"We had quite a bit of research before we had an interviewer ask the then county health commissioner who is now deceased about the

health and sanitation problems at the plant.

"His version was different than his writing at the time of the war. One of the problems of oral history is the fact people would like to go down historically pleasantly even though there might have been controversy in their own life.

"When we find a conflict between our research and someone's memory we cannot use the interview at all. If someone tells me a story about something that they heard about happening in the plant and they weren't there at the time you can't record hearsay.

"But the conditions of living were very difficult. Not only was there a shortage of gasoline and rubber but there was also the difficulty of building a community of 6,000 supposedly permanent dwellings, and 10,000 temporary.

"One difficulty was that there were a lot of local groups who were in opposition to anything permanent. They, and also Ford officials, were concerned that once the bomber plant closed, this area would be a ghost town and people who stayed in permanent dwellings would be a relief burden.

"Most of the archives that I have read are in the Michigan Historical Collections at Bentley Library. There are quite a few documents there including a little booklet which talks about all the famous people that visited the plant. It was everyone from movie stars to presidents, including President Roosevelt.

"Churchill traveled around in a B-24. The B-24 was used not only in the European theater but also in the India-China-Burma theater.

"We're not sure which planes were made at Willow Run and which in San Diego at Consolidated Aircraft where they were doing it in parts, not in a production line. You would somehow have to track serial numbers down to tell them apart.

"Natives of Ypsilanti were not too happy with these workers coming from different parts of the country. One typical comment was that before the bomber plant was built everything was perfect.

"They said 'everybody knew everybody else and all were happy and contented. Now since this influx of riff-raff, mostly southerners, you can't be sure of these people.'

"That, I think, was the attitude. You will hear a comment in the slide-tape show from Dr. Potter about how Ypsi treated anybody living out at the Village.

"The advances of technology and the accompanying social turmoil that happened in Willow Run was a great theme for writers then.

"Someone who had helped me with some interviews happened to find a book at a book sale which was a little bit about Willow Run and three-fourths religious which was written by the mayor of Ypsilanti at the time."

NOW THAT'S CROWDED

"At Willow Village, trailers and homes were crowded to the breaking point," Miss Reps said.

"In one frame house, five men lived in the basement, four men slept on the second floor, nine men slept in the garage and four families parked their trailers in the yard in addition to the family on the main floor.

Miss Reps located one novel about the construction of the B-24 published in 1943 by a man named Glendon Swarthout who later lived in Arizona and published quite a few books.

He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1939, worked at the bomber plant and wrote this book called *Willow Run* in off duty hours. "The essence of it is that five men and one woman carpool together to the Bomber Plant and, of course, all the men are in love with this woman.

"The consequence is they each do something absolutely destructive to each other fighting over this attractive young woman who is a bit of a flirt.

"When they find out she is deceiving them, they act in tragic ways — the young, former playwright has a mental breakdown, a German-American is accused of being a Nazi who should be sent home. Another man decides to prove his manhood by smoking in the plant.

"A fourth man pierced a rival's skull with a power drill and made it appear to be an accident.

"The writer describes this situation thus, 'to weave together the twin themes of creation and destruction the B-24 is made of living and dying, loving and hating and aluminum alloy.

"The description in one or two chapters of the airplane turrets, the sounds on the floor, that type of thing, were interesting.

"When he talks about turrets, he humanizes this plane:

> The B-24 has five eyes — nose turret, pilot's window, top gunner's turret, tail turret and lower gunner's turret. Each eye is made of many small eyes set in metal frames with seldom a flat surface and all combined into one great eye. They are made of plastic substance called plexiglass. It will not shatter. A bullet leaves only a round hole through which the wind whistles.

"The interviews were done by many people. Guy Larcom who served on the War Housing Administration was interviewed by Dave Pollock for example. Since he knew Guy Larcom it was going to be a better interview.

"I was fortunate I had a student from Alabama interview a man who came from Alabama. There was prostitution and gambling in the plant. We wanted to know about this.

"I probably would have asked, 'Was there prostitution in the plant?' and he probably wouldn't tell me. My student said, 'Any wild women at the plant?' and he said, 'Yeah, but I was newly married.'

"It's really essential to speak the same language.

"One woman kept a scrapbook of Bomber Plant days. She even had the first piece of gum from her first airplane flight. Some of her scrapbook photographs are in here along with other photos from the interviewees."

Interviewees and their comments:

Paul Pace, bargaining committeeman, Local 849:

"It was a good place to work. Working conditions as far as I'm concerned were just as good or better than any other place. It was cleaner, brighter and lighter and the Bomber Plant was a beautiful brick building. They had good masons.

"In Ypsi, they'd rent you a clothes closet, bathroom, part of a basement. They'd rent for $50, $60 or $70 a month. We lived in one room in a house on Washington Street and ate out.

"There were bedbugs all over the place. We moved out as soon as we could."

Guy Larcom, War Housing Administration (later Ann Arbor City ad-

ministrator):

"It rose from the bare ground — that's the interesting thing about it. The housing administration was aimed at fast production of temporary housing for areas that were developing rapidly.

"In my interpretation at least, Henry Ford and the Ford organization were 'anti' the war housing commission, or, at least, they weren't cooperative.

"Ford thought people would come in, work at the plant, establish little homes, have little gardens and be self-sustaining. But this was wartime and this never worked out.

"It turned out that the top construction engineers had never really been in touch with key Ford officials. Harry Bennett was the person we had to deal with in getting whatever kind of cooperative relationship with the plant you should have."

Dr. Marcia Potter, a medical doctor who worked and lived at Willow Village during the war years:

"It was almost like comic strips. All the buildings were prefabricated. Here the trucks would come and they would put up housing. Then the next set of trucks came and in would go the furniture.

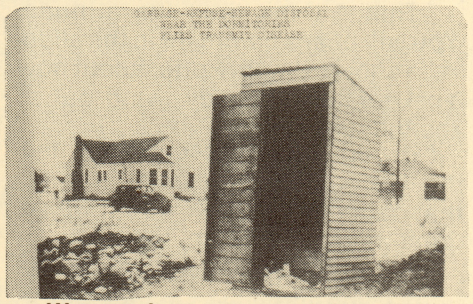
"There would be people standing in line down at the central housing office. As soon as they put the furniture in and took the key to the central office, somebody, would take it and go out and live in it that night.

"As slow as it seemed to the people who came originally, when it really went along, it just mushroomed.

"The person who laid out the village had romantic ideas about the names of some of the streets. No street ran into another street in any expected way. They were made in circles so that you couldn't race through and hurt children.

"People stood in line and stood in line. You stood in line for everything, not only because there weren't the facilities here but also because there were wartime shortages of silk stockings, cigarettes, etc.

"If you saw a line, you just went and joined up. You maybe didn't even know what it was for. I was talking to someone who stood in line almost all one afternoon. They couldn't find out what the line was for. Everybody who came out had a small package. They would ask what



War workers streamed into Willow Run much faster than sanitation and housing needs could be met. The garbage-refuse pile and privy above were photographed near the dormitories.

it was but they wouldn't tell.

'This was at the dime store downtown which is gone out of business. When they finally got up there, what they were standing in line for was a yard of oilcloth. They bought their yard of oilcloth and went home. This woman used hers in the crib under her new baby.

"There was no acceptance of Willow Run as a place by the town of Ypsilanti. There was hostility. They didn't want them. They weren't served in the stores like people who were born and raised in Ypsilanti.

"I've had experience standing in a department store in downtown Ypsilanti with three clerks standing around and no one offer to help me because I came from Willow Run. I lived in Willow Run at this time.

"Later, somebody pointed out to them that I was a doctor and next time I came in for a button everybody was most obsequious but I never went into the store again."

Jim Cox, Willow Run plant supervisor:

"We had in the neighborhood of 40,000 people and the majority of these were women. They were more efficient than the men. They were smaller, more careful. There was less damage done by women crane operators than men.

"The building was approximately a mile long, the largest building under one roof at that time.

"We had people working there from all walks of life. We had school teachers, retired farmers, retired stock brokers, musicians, from all over the U.S. They were all there for the purpose to get the war over.

"The blue print of this plane was drawn up in sections because it was impossible to make one print that large. It was placed out on the floor. Whenever a supervisor or engineer wanted to know something he would just take his shoes off and walk over to take a look at the part of the plane he wanted to look at."

Dorothy Haener, Women's Division, UAW:

"One of the things that in retrospect I can remember about that plant is the fact that individuals like myself got to be an inspector. Women were doing jobs which up to that time they had never been allowed to do."

Duane Crittenden, guard for Ford Motor Company since 1930s:

"The tower would call me and tell me to go out on runway so-and-so, Mr. Lindbergh was out there, and take his oxygen bottle from him.

"Charley would go in the hangar before these flights and pedal a bicycle for about half an hour. He'd have a bottle strapped on his leg to get oxygen into his system. He'd leave it on and go out to the plane.

"It'd be my job to get up on the wing and take his bottle away from him. He didn't want anything loose in the plane. Lindbergh said, "I'm testing for altitude.'

Wiley Reel, pilot for B-24s:

"You know Lindbergh was quite a practical joker. A nice guy, a very nice guy, very democratic.

AHEAD OF HIS TIME

"Ford was absolutely anti-smoking. He would fire you if you smoked in the plant unless you had a nice guard like one I interviewed who said he looked the other way so he could find other problems," Miss Reps said.

"We had another pilot there by the name of Lyle Graham who I believe is from this area. I don't know where he lives now — Jackson or someplace.

"So Lyle Graham and "Slim" Lindbergh had a delivery down to Birmingham and Lyle was a man who also enjoyed a joke. So he said 'Slim, could you do me a favor?'

"Slim said 'Sure'.

"Then Graham said, 'Could you give me two of your autographs?'

"Slim said, 'Yeah, sure. But what do you want two of them for?'

"Well," Graham said. "I've got a friend who will give me one of Gene Autry's for two of yours."

Dr. Marcia Potter (again):

"When the Bomber closed, and it closed this suddenly, the people just went like that. They worked their last shift and were gone in nothing flat.

"Thinking about it afterwards, there were three kinds of people:

"There were people who had come up here who had not saved any money, hadn't a farm at home, didn't have enough money to go back and who stayed in this area.

"Then there were the people who had bought their farms and who went back. They were gone quick. They went in droves out of the place. It was a ghost town in less than 12 hours. It was just unbelievable how they went.

"Then there were people who had really saved their money here and who got homes in this area and stayed."

Duane Spike, skilled worker at plant, long time resident of Ypsilanti:

"The big impact, the positive impact, was it provided work. I benefitted from that, but also it changed the whole complexion of the area."

Guy Larcom (again):

"There's one famous little story from Willow Run about a sign that appeared in one of the dormitory johns. It said, "Going home to Kentucky. For sale, one pair of shoes."

Miss Reps invited anyone interested to come and see WCC's collection on Willow Run.

One thing they have is an hour-and-15-minute video tape copy of "How to Build a Bomber Plane," step-by-step, which she obtained from Ford World Headquarters. People who worked in the plant see their friends on the line.

WWII NEWSREEL VERSION: 'WILLOW VILLAGE – MODEL COMMUNITY IN ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY'

She showed another upbeat version of the story of Willow Run as told in a movie newsreel of the time called "Recreation at the Bomber Plant."

"This is the story of Willow Run, of the great new war bomber plant stretching almost as far as the eye can see, the narrator says in majestic tones. "Here are built planes for the Arsenal of Democracy to lash the Japs from the Pacific, to whip the Nazi war machine in Fortress Europe. And this is the story of the men and women who make those planes, the workers of Willow Run.

"But above all, this is the story of the lives of Willow Run's people, where they go when the day's work is finished. The high living standard means good workers, good housing, food and recreation payoff dividends on the production line.

"Just last fall, Willow Run was nothing more than pasture land, no homes for workers, not even a sewage or a water system. Here, housing was a vital wartime need so the Federal Public Housing Authority began a big job, the job of building a city of homes, a city that could eventually accommodate 20,000 people.

"Pre-fabricated factory-built houses were shipped in panels that could be rolled up in a day, speedy but efficient construction to keep pace wth the evergrowing demand.

"Two community centers are also part of the project. This one, now under construction, will contain a school, stores, offices, recreation facilities and a health clinic.

"The Willow Run community housing area is divided into six separate projects together covering 4½ square miles of land and all housing is within walking distance of the Bomber Plant."

"These homes have been constructed solely to meet the needs of new employees recruited from all throughout the country. Here is convenient, comfortable, sanitary housing, provided at low cost to those who build the planes so necessary to America's war effort.

"Individual homes like these have been designed for workers with families.

"Workers who come to the plant, bags in hand, are registered, and on the same day are assigned accommodations in the project. A complete registry of all available housing in the area, public and private, is maintained so that workers will be given the type of housing they and their families require.

"Designed for single men and women this dormitory has all the advantages of a fine hotel including maid and janitorial service and lounges where residents may entertain. Willow Run war housing center acts as a nucleus for the entire project."

(In January 1944 when there were 14,000 perons in temporary housing, rents were $5 a week for a single bedroom, $3.50 per person for a twin bedroom and $6.50 per week for married couples apartments.)

In one scene, Guy Larcom, management supervisor of the community, and the Detroit Federal Emergency Housing Administration director, inspect one of the new sewage systems.

"At the administration building, new arrivals in the community enter to register for homes, a daily scene at the plant. Steadily increasing production schedules require more and more workers.

"A complete community in every respect, Willow Run has its own fire department with two fire stations and a paid force on 24-hour duty, supplemented by a volunteer system.

"Spiritual uplift is the concern of every American community and here religion has not been neglected. All denominations are represented and services for all groups are held each Sunday in the community hall.

"For the care of the sick a 70-bed infirmary has been provided, staffed by a full-time nursing unit and two resident physicians. It is modern in every respect. To further protect the health of the community a visiting nurses association is also maintained.

"For the many children of the community, Willow Run has its own school system. This includes not only free schools for children under the eighth grade, but also kindergarten and day nursery classes as well.

"A short walk or use of a convenient bus line brings the worker back to the community. Here an evening of recreation may begin at one of the two cafeterias which together serve over 8,000 meals daily. Food is of high quality and reasonable price. All meals are carefully planned by a staff of dietitians.

"Willow Run's population comes from all sections of the country. They live in a model community. Though housing is temporary, facilities such as store, schools, and community buildings are permanent and will remain after the war.

"Girl residents of one of the large modern dormitories spruce up for the evening. This may be spent shopping in many stores or perhaps in Willow Run's own theater operated by Telenews.

"Others may find recreation in one of the community centers where amusements range from ping pong

to jitterbug dancing. Still others may study the arts in free instruction classes.

"This is the story of Willow Run, its people and town in which they live, a small community now, but one which someday may develop into a great American city."

SPAM, RATION BOOKS WWII REMINDERS

A World War II ration book and Spam and crackers added a nostalgic touch to the refreshment table after the Bomber Plant program. Elizabeth Dusseau brought the ration book, Marilou Warner the Spam, a familiar part of soldier's field rations.

WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME FIRST IN NATION

The new Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing claims to be the first of its kind in the United States.

It is open in a renovated house on Michigan's Historic Register at 213 West Main and is seeking charter members of a friends organization and nominees for the Hall of Fame.

They are marketing a book, *Historic Women of Michigan: A Sesquicentennial Celebration,* in which 19 writers profile Michigan women including the late Harriette Simpson Arnow, Ann Arbor author.

SURPRISE FOR EDITOR

WCHS gave your editor a special surprise at the last meeting which fell on her birthday—a beautiful floral centerpiece. Cake, coffee and ice cream were served after the presentation by President Patricia Austin and singing of "Happy Birthday" by the large audience (109 persons).

Historical Happenings Involve:
DEXTER CRAFT FAIR, SHADOW SOCIAL, VALENTINES

Chelsea Historical Society: Quilt show planned in May. Officers were to be elected at Founder's Day potluck February 8. Meet 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Crippen Building of Chelsea Methodist Home.

Dexter Society: Fifteenth annual pioneer craft fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 19, Dexter High School gym. Fifty or more artists will demonstrate and sell their work. Lunch and bake sale by Heritage Guild. Admission, $1.50, adults; 50¢, grades 1-12.

Michigan Indians and Indian lore will be Marge Schaefer's topic following the 8 p.m. March 3 board meeting at the museum, 3443 Inverness.

Webster Historical Society was invited to join them for their February 4 program on post-and-beam construction by Louis Marr of Webster.

They are seeking recipes for the third edition of their society cookbook.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. February speaker, Sandy Trolz, "Herbs in the 18th Century." March speaker, Karen Walker, past-president of the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday at township hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday at former Congregational Church, 7961 Dickerson Street, Salem. Old-fashioned shadow and box social planned in February. Annual potluck dinner March 24.

Saline Society: Meet 7 p.m. fourth Thursday in education building of Presbyterian Church. February program on Valentines. Refreshments first, meeting 7:30. March meeting at public library to study its resources on local history.

Ypsilanti Society: Museum, 220 North Huron, open 2-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Valentine display through February.

GSWC TO HEAR ABOUT MILITARY RECORDS

Carolyn Griffin, an Ypsilanti High School English instructor, will speak on "Military Records: Where to Find and How to Use Them" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, February 28, at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting at Washtenaw Community College. The first session of "Genealogy for Beginners" will follow, presented by Kathie Horning of Howell, GSWC membership chair. Meetings are in Lecture Hall II of Liberal Arts and Science Building.

HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to Pauline Walters, 2200 Fuller Road, B-1202, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Information: 663-2379 evenings/weekends.

Annual dues are $8 for individuals, $15 a couple. Senior individual (60) dues are $6, or $11 a senior couple. Sustaining dues are $50, commercial $25 and student $2. Only one of a couple need be 60 to qualify for senior membership status.

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Published September-May except December and January.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2:00 P.M. Sunday
February 21, 1988
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